1: Fitzgerald H-5 (1937-1938) AE3 Sino-Tibetan
Border Peoples AE3

352 The furniture of a Min Chia home is simple. Tables of two kinds, square for eating meals, and smaller oblong occasional tables for tea cups, which, with hard straight back chairs, are ranged around the sides of the guest room. There are also the long carved tables, something like a narrow European sideboard, which are used as altars and stand against the far wall facing the entrance of the guest room. Benches supplement the hard chairs, but except in a few rare rich households, there is no such thing as an easy chair even of the crudest type. The cane armchairs now made in K'un Ming are occasionally brought to Ta Li by members of the wealthier families, but it is exceptional to find more than two or three of these chairs in the best
• 523 houses. The Min Chia bed is simply a plank platform on four
352 wooden legs, unsprung and unyielding. This is covered with mats and then with quilts until the hardness of the planks is somewhat modified—but for the European body most inadequately modified—and reclining on such a bed is the
352 Min Chia idea of comfort. For cupboards the Min Chia use large chests, and locally made cabinets, of inferior workmanship.

Most of this furniture is very roughly made of soft woods, painted black, or black with red tops, in the case of tables and benches. But a better quality of hard wood furniture, tables, chairs, altars and benches is made at Têng Ch'uan north of Ta Li, and sold at the Yu Tan Hui fair. These pieces are made of red Ch'un wood, a hard wood of the ilex type found only at high altitudes on the Yunnan mountain ranges. The Têng Ch'uan Ch'un wood furniture is beautifully carved and very well made, the table tops cut from a single piece of wood measuring as much as 3ft. by 2ft. 6in. But though handsome, it is only made in the traditional pieces, and does not meet the demands of comfort. If a Min Chia wishes to make a guest comfortable he offers him